

transforming the 76-year-old company from a \$600 million enterprise in 1999 when she was named President & CEO to over \$1.5 billion today. Mrs. Ayers has worked closely with the Board of Directors and management teams to develop innovative, convenient, and value-packed products and services to the members of Georgia's Own.

Amid economic turmoil for many of our nation's financial corporations, Mrs. Ayers has dedicated her leadership to ensuring her company is doing the best by its members. Charlotte's legacy will be building one of the most trusted financial institutions in the state. Her hard work and dedication will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING GOLD STAR MOTHERS

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gold Star Mothers day, which was observed on the last Sunday of September. This day commemorated the supreme sacrifice made by those who have lost a son or daughter serving in the Armed Forces. By honoring these mothers, we also remember all those who have given their lives in service for our country.

The American Gold Star Mothers assist veterans of the Armed Forces and their dependents in the presentation of claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and aid members of the Armed Forces who served and died, or were wounded or incapacitated during hostilities. Their services have strengthened and inspired Americans throughout the history of the United States.

The sacrifice of Gold Star Mothers emphasizes the role of the home and the family as the true foundation of the United States. The American mother is a source of moral and spiritual guidance for the people of the United States; she acts as a positive force to promote good government and peace among all mankind.

For more than eighty years, American Gold Star Mothers have banded together to show their pride and love of our country. These women have given their time and effort to honor all fallen children and assist veterans. In spite of their grief, they have demonstrated an ardent support for and deep service of our country.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the heroic precedent set by Gold Star Mothers and their legacy of patriotism, sacrifice, and service.

A TRIBUTE TO EPHRAIM BENTON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ephraim Benton for his achievements.

Ephraim Benton was born in Brooklyn, New York. He is the oldest of seven children, and

has worked hard to make a mark on the entertainment industry.

Mr. Benton is constantly developing his own projects, and has already executive produced, written, directed and starred in two short films titled "Brown Paper Bags" and "3 Quarters of Face Value." He also produced an animated documentary about the life of President Barack Obama titled "HIStory," and is the founder of two film festivals.

In 2009, Mr. Benton made his mark beginning with a small role in the Academy Award Nominee film "Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire" directed by the critically acclaimed Lee Daniel. He then played Shawn in the film "Shades of Brooklyn Vol. 1" that debuted on HBO Short Series. Mr. Benton also stars in the award winning indie film "Inside a Change" directed by BET Award Video Director of the Year nominee Rik Cordero. He gives a compelling performance as Chris Price, a teenager about to serve 180 days in prison for a first-time offense who discovers that his family is falling apart when his mother invites him home for dinner, and is forced to re-examine his life and how he can bring everyone together for his mother's birthday.

Additionally, Mr. Benton is a member of two community advisory boards and has used his life experiences and success to give back to the community through his non-profit organization.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ephraim Benton.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 10th Anniversary of the Prince William County Bar Foundation.

The Prince William County Bar Foundation was created in 2000 by members of the PWC Bar Association for the purpose of funding community service projects that promote access to justice and law related services for the people of Prince William County. The Foundation is an all volunteer, non-profit organization that operates solely on the basis of donated time, funds and resources provided by local attorneys, law firms and community groups.

In its first year, the Foundation adopted the Beat the Odds® program to recognize at-risk youth involved in the juvenile justice system and foster care programs who have overcome the odds against their success. The Foundation provides them with attorney mentors, scholarships towards college and vocational education. Since its first year participating in the Beat the Odds program, the Foundation has supported more than 100 young men and women in the community and has provided close to \$200,000 in scholarships, vocational funds and educational awards to encourage each Beat the Odds award recipient to continue to seek a positive path into adulthood.

The Foundation has grown to include a number of other programs that match needs in the community with resources available through Bar Association members. The Foundation provides for the printing of court infor-

mational pamphlets to assist the public in understanding the legal process, awards for the County's middle-school "Character Counts" annual essay contest, supports the Prince William County National Adoption Day in which foster care children move into permanent homes, and partners with the Gang Response Intervention Team to assist with its gang tattoo removal program. The Foundation recently undertook the project "Books for Troubled Teens" in order to provide a steady supply of books to children who spend time waiting in the hallways of juvenile court or reside at the Juvenile Detention Center or juvenile shelter care facility.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Prince William County Bar Foundation. The Foundation's educational outreach, crime prevention and rehabilitation programs are effective tools for providing positive encounters with the justice system to at-risk children. I would like to extend my personal appreciation to the members of the Foundation for their efforts to instill respect for the law and justice in our community's young people.

IN HONOR OF FIVE RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE CAMDEN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor five members of the Camden City Fire Department who have provided years of dedicated service to the Camden, New Jersey community. Chief Kevin Hailey, Chief Ralph Roberts, Chief Maurice Wilson, Chief Darryl Lewison and Chief Larry Wilson deserve to be recognized for their hard work and devotion to the Camden City Fire Department.

Chief Kevin Hailey began his many years of service in April of 1981 when he was hired by the Camden City Fire Department. The youngest Fire Captain in the Camden City Fire Department's history, Chief Hailey went on to become Battalion Chief and then Deputy Chief. After 28 years of devoted service to the Camden City Fire Department, Chief Hailey retired on May 1, 2010. Married to his high school sweetheart Melvina since 1989, Chief Hailey is the proud father of one daughter, Kelly.

Chief Ralph Roberts has represented the Camden City Fire Department as Firefighter, Fire Inspector, Fire Captain, Assistant Training Officer, Fire Sub Code Official, Emergency Management Coordinator and New Jersey State Licenses Inspector. An advisor on many city boards who holds a degree in Fire Science, Chief Roberts was an invaluable member of the Camden City Fire Department for 28 years. He retired on June 1, 2010.

Chief Maurice Wilson became a member of the Camden City Fire Department in April of 1982. After being promoted to Captain in February of 1996, he was further promoted to Battalion Chief in April of 2001 and Deputy Chief in January of 2005 before retiring on May 1, 2010 after 28 years with the Camden City Fire Department. Chief Wilson and his wife Betty have two children.

Chief Darryl Lewison was hired by the Camden City Fire Department in 1982 and was

quickly assigned to Ladder 3 on 4 group where he spent the next six years before transferring to Ladder 2. Chief Lewison served as Captain of Engine 7 on 3 group in 1992 and was then assigned to Rescue 1 on 4 group. After eight years, Chief Lewison was transferred to Engine 10 on 4 platoon and continued on to Ladder 2. In 2001, Chief Lewison was made Battalion Chief on 2 group and then transferred to Battalion 1 on 1 group. After 28 years of dutiful service, Chief Lewison retired on May 1, 2010.

Chief Larry Wilson joined the Camden City Fire Department in 1981 after serving as a U.S. Marine from 1972–1975 and attending school at Rutgers University and Camden County College. Chief Wilson was assigned to Engine 6 on 3 group before transferring to both Engine 7 and Ladder 3. After his promotion to Captain of Engine 7 in 1996, Chief Wilson was transferred to Engine 11 and then promoted to Battalion Chief of Battalion 2 on group 3. After 28½ years of service, Chief Wilson retired on April 1, 2010. The proud father of four children, Chief Wilson and his wife, Joan, have nine grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, the commitment of Chief Kevin Hailey, Chief Ralph Roberts, Chief Maurice Wilson, Chief Darryl Lewison and Chief Larry Wilson to the community of Camden, New Jersey should not go unrecognized. I express my deepest appreciation to these men for their dedication and unwavering loyalty to the Camden City Fire Department.

TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER FRANK HALAS

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Southwest Florida's most outstanding public servants, Collier County Commissioner Frank Halas, who is retiring after an exceptional career.

Frank has served on the Collier County Board of Commissioners for the last eight years, and during his time on the Board, he has been a strong force for the people of Collier County and all of Southwest Florida. One of his top priorities has been the preservation and protection of the Vanderbilt Beach area in Naples, and he has fought tirelessly to protect our region's delicate environment and water resources.

Frank's public service did not start with his stint on the Board of Commissioners, and I doubt it will end there. He enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduating from high school, and after 31 years with the Ford Motor Company in Michigan, he retired to Southwest Florida, where the "quiet and sophistication" of the area appealed to him and his family.

During his time here in our part of paradise, Frank has held countless positions on numerous civic and charitable organizations throughout Southwest Florida. He's the type of person who believes in giving back to his community tenfold and has done just that. From his work with the VFW, the Taxpayers Action Group, the Collier Audubon Society, and the Estuary Conservation Association, he has worked to make Southwest Florida a great place to live, work and visit.

Frank's enthusiasm and passion for serving the community is inspiring. He is the type of elected official that all of us in public service strive to be—accessible, dedicated, and effective.

I'd like to recognize Frank's wife, Diane, and his six children and nine grandchildren, for their support during his public service—I know he couldn't have accomplished so much without their love and support.

Madam Speaker, although we are sad to see him leave the Collier County Board of Commissioners, Southwest Florida is better off today because of Frank Halas' tireless work. I wish Frank and his family all the best as he enjoys his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE CAREER OF PASTOR DAVID STANDFEST

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and career of Pastor David Standfest of Williamsburg, Michigan. Pastor Standfest is the founder of the New Hope Community Church in Williamsburg and is retiring after 30 years of tireless service to his church and his local community.

David Standfest was born in Owosso, Michigan on May 14th, 1947. Early on, David knew that he wanted to have an impact in his local community and understood one of the best ways to affect positive change was through the church. David enrolled at Owosso Bible College following high school, where he studied to become a pastor and played basketball. After graduation in 1970, David served as a pastor in the Owosso area until moving to Traverse City in 1980, where he became the pastor at Bayview Wesleyan Church.

In 1990, Pastor Standfest founded the New Hope Community Church in Williamsburg. The church started humbly in an area home with only a congregation of eight people. But Pastor Standfest would not be deterred in his commitment to serving the people of northern Michigan. With hard work, the New Hope Community Church grew to a congregation of over 1,400 devoted worshippers. Aside from the home campus in Williamsburg, the New Hope Community Church expanded to three locations across northern Michigan (Traverse City, Bellaire and Petoskey) in order to expand its services to families in the area.

In Williamsburg, the New Hope Community Church boasts a full size gym for active children and youth programs, and a 1,450 seat auditorium for local school and community college events such as graduations, banquets and other ceremonies. The administration building holds 13 offices and family counseling rooms and a community center that accommodates 250 people for various area events.

While this economic crisis continues to weigh down families in northern Michigan, Pastor Standfest has been there to help those who are struggling in every way possible. The first 5 percent of all offerings that New Hope Community Church receives go to help area families with housing issues and other financial difficulties. Pastor Standfest started a food pantry that is open seven days a week and has helped thousands of families put food on

the table. The church also offers "Care" ministries that provide attentive counselors to help local residents through this tough period.

Madam Speaker, Pastor David Standfest has devoted his life to helping the people of northern Michigan in any way he can. His untiring dedication to his community, especially during this recession, is a true inspiration and should be commended. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and honoring Pastor Standfest's lifetime of commitment and hard work.

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF THE OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, In 1885, former Congressman and Senator Gilbert Hitchcock founded what would become the largest employee-owned newspaper, and the newspaper with the highest percentage of subscribers in a home circulation area, in the United States. This paper, the Omaha World-Herald, recently celebrated its 125th anniversary of bringing the news to Nebraskans' and Iowans' hands and homes.

The Omaha World-Herald has won many awards through the years, including three Pulitzer Prizes for coverage of the senseless violence against African-Americans in Omaha in 1919, the large-scale scrap-metal drive in Nebraska during World War II, and an emotional photograph of a World War II soldier's homecoming to Iowa. One of its most recent awards was bestowed by the Columbia Journalism Review for its coverage of the war in Afghanistan.

Notably, the Omaha World-Herald is one of the few remaining independently-owned papers with statewide coverage. This is shown in its localized content and strong commitment to community. Congratulations to the Omaha World-Herald on 125 years of reporting and serving Nebraska's communities.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF JOHN H. BUSTAMANTE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of John H. Bustamante, devoted husband, father, grandfather, friend and mentor. Mr. Bustamante's great achievements in fields of publishing, law and business are only matched by his leadership in the civil rights movement.

Mr. Bustamante was born in Santiago, Cuba, and moved with his family to Florida. He graduated from Stanton High School in Jacksonville, Florida, and later attended Boston University where he shared a room with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His friendship with Dr. King inspired his lifelong involvement in the civil rights movement. Their friendship remained strong until Dr. King's tragic death in 1968.